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THE YELLOW SHEETS

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May-June, 1946

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In spite of excessive rainfall, early gardens are truly early this year. Normally, by early April, a variety of salad plants are ready, Peas and Beans come in May, while the tender stuff frequently begin in June.

I spoke too soon when I wrote that the baby seedlings of the Kalanchoes were only slightly hurt. Almost without exception they pindled away and died. Mother plants left, but no youngsters for several months yet.

Houstonias and Viola refinesque done for this year. Best to order them in late February and early March, and carry as house plants until ready to set them in permanent place. Spring Beauties, still blooming but will not last much longer. This is one plant which can hold its own with Bermuda. The corn was used by the Quapaw Indians as food, roasted as we do peanuts. Iris cristatas in bloom. Surprising how quickly they bloom after the leaves start growing.

We have a tiny dwarf Iris in bloom in an old gallon lard bucket. Definitely not a cristata but no bigger; pale yellow blooms down among the leaves. Would be good as a border plant, or in pots. I have only the one plant. Think it is named Philemon.

An elderly German couple lived for years near Wickes, Ark., our former home. I learned much from them. They had a Rose Garden divided into beds; and the beds were edged with Strawberry plants. The effect was both interesting and ornamental and enough berries resulted to supply their need.

And speaking of Roses, my friend, Mrs. Spring, has a bush that is worth talking about. In 1840 a family by the name of Poe moved from South Carolina to Arkansas. Mrs. Poe brought with her a young Rose start taken from a very old bush at her old home. In 1850, a neighbor living across the road was given a start of this Rose. Both farms are now a part of Grannis. The old bush was grubbed out as being "too old fashioned," but the one set in Mrs. Spring's yard is still thriving after nearly one hundred years. An aged daughter-in-law of the original Mrs. Poe is still living—across the street from Mrs. Spring, and of course has first hand knowledge of the bush.

It is a pillar Rose, double, creamy white, and a profuse bloomer in its season. May is our regular month of Roses, but this one is in full bud now, and some opening. Earlier than the Ramblers, which are now in full bud but not showing color.

I think this Rose is the old French Felicite de Perpetuite. We know from histories, that after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, that many of the Huegenot families, some of my ancestors among them, fled to South Carolina from the ensuing persecution. Excess baggage cannot be carried under such circumstances, but a number of the ladies took cuttings of Roses and Lilacs and wore them as hairpins, until safely on shipboard. A bush that was very old in 1840 might well have been a daughter of one of the original hairpins.

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I am sure that Mrs. Spring has no young plants of this Rose as the bush takes about all the room in her small yard that she can spare for it. But if you are interested, have success with cuttings and have some nice hardy plants to trade, I feel sure that she would be wide open for a fair trade. The address is Mrs. Jerome Spring, Grannis, Ark.

My *Klienlia articulata* (do not know its common name) has me puzzled. Mrs. George Ralph, Texarkana, Ark., gave me my start. The tiny slip looked like a miniature grey-green baseball bat. No leaves. Set it in a can of rich loam, right side up with care. Soon began making new growth—a thick stem with tiny leaves. When the main stem was about half an inch long and petioles of the leaves about 2 inches, the new growth was accidentally broken off. Main stem not disturbed that I could see. Planted broken piece at once. It grew off nicely; is of recumbent growth, about a foot long; but the mother plant withered and died. Now why?

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph have a wonderful collection of plants and their garden is an asset to the city.

Strive to enter in at the straight gate; for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in and shall not be able.—Luke 13; 24.

Personally, I think as many people go down the broad way from laziness as from actual wickedness. They would like to travel the narrow way, but it is just too much trouble. The Bible stresses the importance of mental and spiritual activity. St. Paul directs,

“Add to your virtue, knowledge;” and we cannot pursue any line of decent study without coming closer to God. Keep trying to stamp out our own faults and strengthen our good points.

And if we old folks will center our efforts on improving our own characters and increasing our knowledge, we are likely to find ourselves relieved of a lot of worry about the younger generation.

(Personally I cannot see that the younger generation is up to one bit more devilment than we were at the same age.)

Have you tried the old fashioned Sweet Rocket? I planted some seed last spring. Only a few germinated. Early this spring, set the strongest in an out of the way corner where it need not be disturbed. Now, latter half of April, it is in full bloom, lavender, Phlox-like fragrant flowers. A 5c pkt. is big enough for two families. Hardy perennial, said to last for years.

The Peonies I received in late winter from Mrs. A. B. Peterso, R. 1, Fonda, Iowa, are just coming into bloom. Such strong roots. The dark red single, a Japanese I think, is the earliest. Outer petals very dark red, center lighter red and gold. She wrote me that she is unable to identify it. Philip Revoire nearly ready to open. Mons Martin Cahusac will not bloom this year.

One of the Rhubarb plants I received from Mrs. A. B. Asmus, R. 1, Box 934, Phoenix, Ariz., bloomed this spring and is creating quite an interest among the flower lovers of Grannis. The whole flower head much larger

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than the common Yucca, upright; dainty white at first, now changing to a greenish pink little bangles. Very ornamental. I have not cut any of the leaves yet. Waiting for the seeds to ripen.

My hardy Cacti have had me worried. No way to protect them from our excessive winter rains. So many of the pads turned black and shrivelled. Did really lose a number. Was afraid that they were diseased and I would have to burn the lot. Did cut off a lot of the blackened pads and burned them. Remaining parts putting out vigorous new growth.

Have had rather a peculiar experience trying to get a start of Partridge Cochin baby chicks. My friend, Mrs. Hetzler, sent me a catalogue of a northern hatchery handling that rare breed. Prices for eggs and breeding stock were given but not chicks. I wrote asking if they could send me 25 day-old chicks of that breed, and at what price. No answer but about a month later they sent me their catalogue. I repeated my request, but still no answer. Now I am skittish about dealing with such methods. Will be glad to hear of some other hatchery which can supply day-old Partridge Cochin chicks.

HARDY ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

HARDY SEDUMS. All Sedums I call hardy can survive 15 below zero without protection. Some of them are hardy in the sub-Arctic. Most are fine for rock garden plants. Last year my Sempervivums made almost no increase. This year most are "hatching"

chicks, and when my backlog of orders left from last year are filled, I hope to have a number of varieties of hardy Semps to offer. There is a rock garden plant par excellence. Most of the dwarf plants listed under other heads, and many of the wildlings, are also good for rock gardens.

I have wholesale quantities of the following Sedums: Sarmentosum, hardy to subarctic, pendant effect. One sent me Glaucum, much like album, but different flowers and winter coloring; Album white flowers; evergreen with us; an album hybrid has never bloomed for me, color of foliage slightly different, a grey green one which I think is altissum, good in rock garden, dish garden or as a pot plant; Acre and Sexanfulare much alike but different, both dwarf and good ground cover for clayey spots; Maximoiczi, little known in U.S.A.—two varieties which are in dispute among the botanists who have seen them. The dealer from whom I bought them identified them as the rare pink-flowered Stoloneferum, and No. 28 as Stoloneferum coccinea; and the faculty of our State Experiment Station at Hope, Ark., agrees with him. Other botanists just as well posted say that both are unusual Spurium hybrids.

Have from one to a dozen plants of other varieties. Will trade, plant for plant, any Sedum listed for starts of red or purple. Have had both and put them out in the yard where Bermuda grass killed them.

Any Sedum listed, labeled to the best of my knowledge, 5c.

Seven well-rooted, small clumps, all different, labeled to the best of my knowledge, 25c, postpaid.

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If selection is left to me, 50 well-rooted Sedums, 10 varieties labeled, \$1.00.

If unlabeled, 1c each in lot of 25.

CONFEDERATE VIOLETS, grey effect, thrive in poor soil and can stand more sun than others.

WHITE VIOLETS, force easily for late winter blooming IF you can keep mice away from the tiny buds.

Wooly Violets, dwarf, very early. Full sun and poor soil.

A red Violet, mid season. Needs moderate shade.

Birdsfoot Violet, dwarf, very early. Full sun and poor soil.

Wood Sorrell (wild Oxalis) attractive, edible foliage, early flowering, very hardy.

Blue and gold Iris cristata Needs some shade. Will soon be up.

Amethyst Iris cristata, needs same conditions as the other, but is especially good for wall gardens.

Virginia Creeper, well known vine. Deep red in fall.

Five Fingers (Potentilla) small vine with some medicinal value. Found growing among rocks. Blooms in early summer.

Christmas Fern, 2½ ft. tall. Green through the winter with us, becoming shabby in the spring. Needs shade. Good for base plantings on north side of house. Very hardy, 10c.

Ebony-Spleenwort Fern, also green through winter, and unsightly in the spring. About 18 in. tall. Very hardy. Can stand more sun than the Christmas Fern, and often found growing in cracks of rocks and among roots of hardwood trees, 10c.

Blunt Lobed Woodsia Fern, often found growing with the Ebony

Spleenwort. Same conditions. Dies down in winter, 10c.

Occasionally find three varieties of Botrychiums; the Virginia Grape and the Ternate Grape Fern, and a third, still later which, so far, have not been able to identify. They are very rare here and I cannot promise positively to find one, 10c each.

The above is true of the Resurrection Fern (*Polypodium polypody*). No wonder it is very dwarf, with such a name, 10c.

Lady Ferns. These grow quite tall. Die down in winter. Said to be able to thrive in considerable drouth, but I find them near water, 10c.

Braken, the dry land Fern. Needs a little shade, 10c.

Wood Betony (*Betonia*). Good ground cover for deep shade. Fern-like leaves, deep red when the first come through. Yellow blooms, good stems for cutting.

Red Tradescantia, so called from the winter color of the leaves. Mother plants I brought in from clay bank hillsides, light shade, had deep maroon colored flowers; but only the Lord Himself knows what color they will be in your garden. Anything from bluish white through all the shades of blue and purple to deep maroon, will be entirely normal. One of the native Spiderworts. Very hardy.

I hope to have three varieties of ornamental Pepper plants in season.

Birds Eye, hotter than hot. Good substitute for Tobasco.

Bouquet, small fruits, first green, then cream, then lavender and finally red. All colors on bush at same time. Too hot for me.

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Squash Pepper, looks like a little yellow Patty Pan Squash. Same garden effect as a Giant yellow Marigold. Still too hot for me.

Am planting a variety of seeds and will be able to tell you more about them later.

HARDY CACTI—10c EACH

OPUNTIA VULGARE (Common Prickly Pear) hardy, flower creamy yellow, fruit edible. Can be used as pot plant. Thrives in poor soil.

OPUNTIA VASEYI, hardy on the Colorado desert.

OPUNTIA ROBUSTA, stately lawn plant, hardy here to 15 below.

OPUNTIA RAMOSISSIMA, hardy and dwarf, good in full sun in rock gardens, also good as pot plant.

An almost spineless *Opuntia* found here in only one spot that I know of. May be Beaver Tail.

Any of the above plants 5c each, unless otherwise noted.

HOUSE PLANTS

Common Green Leaf Wandering Jew, 5c.

Large Green Leaf Wandering Jew, 5c.

Peanut Cactus (*Chamecerous Sylvestris*), 10c.

Optunia Vilyi (dwarf tender), 10c.

Optunia, either *elata* or *subelata*, not sure which, 10c.

Cactus Echinopsis, 10c.

(When the babies are big enough).

Unless otherwise stated, all plants whose prices are not given, are 5c each. Postage paid on orders of 50c or more. For less than that amount, please add 5c.

Until income is bigger, the Yellow Sheets will be published bi-monthly;

and until my cubs are home from the war, more attention will be paid to unusual plants, many from other lands, than to our wildings.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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TO SWAP—Hardy white, fall blooming *Crocus*, or other hardy plants and bulbs, especially *Tulips* and *Scillas*. Mrs. J. D. Cook, Whip-O-Will Hill, Rt. 1, Box 490, Texarkana, Ark.

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DOUBLE PERENNIAL SWEET WILLIAMS, Year-Old Plants. \$1.00 doz. Blooming size Plants, 60c doz. Small plants, 3 doz., \$1.00.

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PINK THRIFT, a border plant, hardy, 60 plants for \$1.00; 200 for \$3.00; 400 for \$5.00.

PINK AND RED AZALEAMUMS.

Hardy, hundreds of blooms; first year, 6c doz. Price list for other plants free. Postpaid on \$1.00 orders or more. Mrs. Ted Leath, Trussville, Alabama.

TYPEWRITER RIBBONS, carbon paper and other office supplies. Reliable quality and fair prices. Golden Rule Cooperative Soc., 654 No. Florence St., Burbank, Cal.

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"COLDPROOF" or New Delta Fig, bears first year planted, large figs, finest quality. Other fruit and nut trees. Also Mexico-Texas gifts, curios, children's toys. New Delta Nursery, R. 4, Jackson, Mississippi.

FOR SALE—Battery Tester, 50c; Antique Brass Sick Bell, \$2.00; McBirmes Bible Books, 25c each; Cowboy Song Book, 25c; Quilt Top, \$2.50; Kodak, \$1.25; Cut of wood from Daniel Boone tree, \$1.00; 1 Crystal Set Radio, \$4.85; Walnut Kernels, \$1.00 per pint; Bittersweet, shoe box full, \$1.00; No-Run for washing hose, 25c; Needles for knitting up runs in hose, 15c. **GARDEN SEEDS:** Earliest 60-day Watermelon, 25c; Climbing Tomato, 25c; Cushaw, 15c; Chinese Cabbage, 15c; Giant Pop Corn, 25c; Parsley, 10c. Dark Cornish Chickens, 15 eggs for \$2.00. Flower Seeds, 10c per pkt. Scarlet Sage; Hardy Sweet Pea; Sweet William; Hibiscus; Forget-Me-Not; Blue Ageratum. Would like to exchange flower and garden seeds for broad breasted Turkey eggs.

WANTED: Middle-aged white woman who needs a good home. Mrs. F. M. Ford, R. 2, Box 148, Blountville, Tenn.

PARROT FEATHER WATER MOSS

—6 for 35c. Crepe Paper Roses and Carnations (waxed), \$1.00 per 12. Mrs. Ed Stone, R. 2, Adairsville, Ga.

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VINCOR-MINOR, 3c each. Red Mums, 50c dozen. Mrs. K. P. Doyle, Salisbury, N. C.

PETUNIAS; PHLOX; Garden Pinks, double and single; Black-Eyed Susan; Lark Spur—all above, 12 for 25c. Snapdragons; Stocks; Carnations; Pansies—12 for 35c. Postage, add 3c for each dozen. Chrysanthemums, mix colors and sizes, 12 for 35c. Have plenty for sale at all time. Mrs. A. B. Clark, R. 6, Box 232, Meridian, Miss.

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